

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08497 261710Z

41/50

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCA-01 SCS-03 /054 W

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O 261513Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9490

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8497

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IN

SUBJ: THE FOREIGN PRESS AND THE EMERGENCY: THE  
WASHINGTON POST CASE

1. THE WASHINGTON POST CASE HAS NOW BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY WITH ITS ACCOMPANYING CENSORSHIP OF BOTH THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PRESS. I NEVERTHELESS TOOK UP THE LEW SIMONS CASE FIRST WITH TEJA, WHOM I SAW AT LUNCH, AND LATER WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH WHEN HE CALLED ME IN TO BRIEF ME ON THE EMERGENCY (SEPTTEL). I LEARNED THAT THE GOI HAS ASKED ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE POST IN WASHINGTON WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF GETTING THE POST TO WITHDRAW SIMONS. THEY ARE NOW AWAITING WORD OF THE RESULTS OF THIS DISCUSSION.
  2. BOTH TEHA AND KEWAL SINGH SPOKE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS OF WHAT THEY CONSIDERED DELIBERATELY MISCHIEVOUS REPORTING BY SIMONS. THEY CITED TWO STORIES: THE FIRST WAS A STORY ON THE ASSASSINATION OF RAILWAY MINISTER MISHRA WHICH, ACCORDING TO KEWAL SINGH, POINTED THE FINGER OF RESPONSIBILITY AT MRS. GANDHI.
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THE SECOND WAS ABOUT DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE ARMY

AT MRS. GANDHI'S REFUSAL TO RESIGN. KEWAL SINGH REPEATED WHAT KAUL HAD SAID ABOUT THERE BEING A LIMIT TO WHAT THE GOI WOULD TOLERATE. I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE GOI WILL EJECT SIMONS IF THE POST DOES NOT AGREE TO TRANSFER HIM OUT. I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED TO BOTH TEJA AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ABOUT THE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT ON INDIA'S REPUTATION OF AN EXPULSION. IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF THE EMERGENCY, HOWEVER, I DOUBT THAT THE GOI WILL BE THAT CONCERNED ABOUT ITS REPUTATION FOR PRESS FREEDOM.

3. I ALSO ASKED KEWAL SINGH ABOUT CENSORSHIP OF THE FOREIGN PRESS. HE CONFIRMED THAT IT HAD BEEN IMPOSED AND SAID THAT ITS OBJECTIVE WAS NOT TO ASSURE THAT REPORTS WOULD BE "PLEASING TO THE GOI". HE SAID THAT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO REPORT FACTS WITHOUT DELAYS BUT WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO MAKE BASELESS ALLEGATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE DECISION TO IMPOSE CENSORSHIP HAD BEEN WELL CONSIDERED AND WOULD BE MAINTAINED.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALL FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH "GUIDANCE FOR FILING" NOTICES. INSTRUCTIONS ARE THAT ALL COPY MUST BE CLEARED BY THE CENSOR AT THE PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU AND MUST BE FILED AT GOI'S OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION SERVICE FACILITIES. AMONG PROSCRIBED MATERIAL ARE COMMENTS OR QUOTATIONS FROM DISSIDENTS, MENTION OF PRESSURE ON POLITICIANS TO RESIGN, MENTION OF REBELLION OR DISLOYALTY AMONGST ARMED FORCES AND ANY FALSE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST OFFICIALS.

5. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED TWO TELEPHONE QUERIES FROM US RADIO/TELEVISION, BUT ONLY ONE WAS CLEAR. WE REPLIED VERY BRIEFLY CITING ONLY INDIAN PRESS TICKERS ON FACTUAL MATTERS AND MAKING CLEAR THAT THE SOURCE WAS THE INDIAN WIRE SERVICE AND NOT THE EMBASSY. WE WILL CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE IF MORE CALLS GET THROUGH.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MARTIAL LAW, CENSORSHIP, POLITICAL SITUATION, THE PRESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2003  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PINS, IN, WASHINGTON POST, (SIMONS, LEWIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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